



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St Paul District

## **Safe Boating Reminders From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Grand Excursion 2004**

### **What is the Grand Excursion?**

The original Grand Excursion of 1854 celebrated America's first railroad connection to the Mississippi River. This event hosted more than 1,200 dignitaries, politicians, journalists, business leaders and artists, including the 13th United States president, Millard Fillmore, on a journey that began on rail from Chicago to Rock Island, Ill., **then by steamboat up river from Rock Island, Ill., to Saint Paul, Minn., and Saint Anthony Falls in Minneapolis, with several stops in riverfront communities along the way.**

Grand Excursion 2004, or GE2004, will retrace this historic adventure. Participants in GE2004 will have hundreds of opportunities to participate in special events, festivals, parades and programs showcasing riverfront improvements, pathways and tourist attractions in the participating communities in this four-state initiative (Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota).

The signature event will be the Grand Flotilla, the largest fleet of steamboats assembled in 100 years. At least seven steamboats, including the Delta and Mississippi queens, will be in the fleet. (Steamboat information subject to last-minute change.)

### **When will the boats travel the Upper Mississippi River?**

The Upper Mississippi River, from the Quad Cities to the Twin Cities, will be a busy place from **June 25** through **July 4**. The first fleet of boats affiliated with GE2004 will come to the St. Paul District on June 29 with one boat, the *Harriet Bishop*, stopping at Guttenberg, Iowa, from about 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. as others pass by. The *Delta Queen* will depart McGregor, Iowa, for La Crosse, Wis., at about 4:30 p.m., and the *Mississippi Queen* will leave Prairie du Chien, Wis., at about 4 p.m. on the same day.

Most of the boats stop part of the day on June 30 at La Crosse with the exception of the *Mississippi Queen*, which will spend the day in Winona, Minn. The fleet will be divided between Wabasha, Minn., and Lake City, Minn., on July 1, along with a number of the other arriving steamboats.

On July 3, the *Harriet Bishop* will depart for St. Paul from Hastings, Minn., and the *Celebration Belle* will depart for St. Paul from Prescott, Wis. On the morning of July 3, other boats will depart for St. Paul from Red Wing, Minn., with all boats arriving at Lock and Dam #1 in Minneapolis by about 3:15 p.m.

Note that all above times are approximate. Additional information can be obtained from various communities and the Grand Excursion website: [www.grandexcursion.com](http://www.grandexcursion.com)

### **Boating safely and locking through.**

The Grand Excursion and pre-July 4 festivities will increase boat traffic on the Upper Mississippi River in the St. Paul District June 29 through July 4. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminds you to boat safely, be aware of the rules of navigation and operating around the locks and dams, **and exercise patience during this time of increased boat traffic.** *Also, due to the increase in boat traffic, radio communications may be very heavy at times. Please try to minimize radio and cell phone calls to the locks and dams. Please monitor radio channels 14 and 16 for locking information.*

## ***SAFETY REMINDERS –***

***>Boats underway should stay within the red and green buoys that designate the minimum nine (9-foot) channel.***

***>Federal and state laws require approved wearable personal flotation devices for each person on board a vessel and at least one throw-able for boats over 16 feet. Additionally, children under 13 are required to wear a PFD at all times while on federal waters.***

***>At a lock and dam, vessels should approach carefully, obey the signals and directions of the lock attendants or other patrol personnel, and leave the lock slowly and courteously.***

***>Commercial passenger vessels, such as steamboats, have priority when locking through.***

***>Smaller boats should maintain a safe distance from commercial boats and barges, which have less maneuverability and can generate large waves and turbulence.***

***>Avoid the restricted areas above and below the dams.***

## ***BE INFORMED and BE SAFE!***